

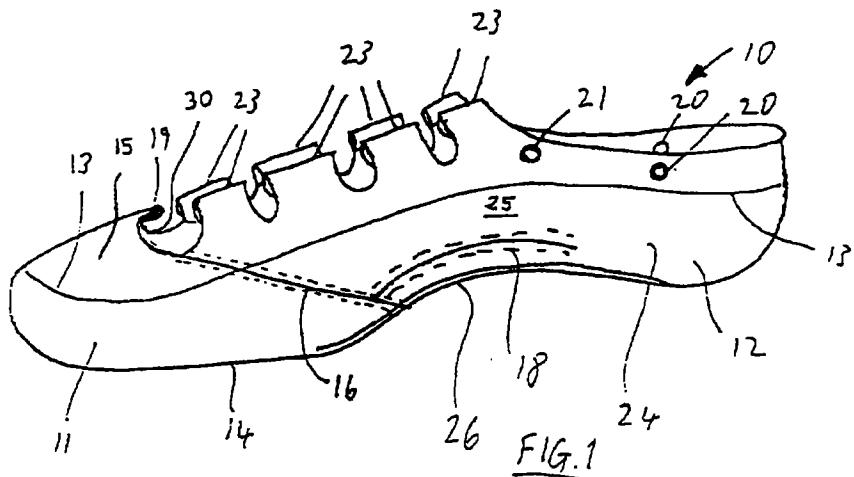
(12) UK Patent Application (19) GB (11) 2 342 275 (13) A

(43) Date of A Publication 12.04.2000

(21) Application No 9923810.7	(51) INT CL ⁷ A43B 5/12
(22) Date of Filing 11.10.1999	
(30) Priority Data (31) 9821909 (32) 09.10.1998 (33) GB	(52) UK CL (Edition R) A3B B8G
(71) Applicant(s) Craig Michael Coussins 400 Wellshot Road, Tollcross, GLASGOW, G72 8PT, United Kingdom	(56) Documents Cited GB 2316598 A GB 2232057 A GB 0321825 A GB 0252850 A
(72) Inventor(s) Craig Michael Coussins	(58) Field of Search UK CL (Edition R) A3B INT CL ⁷ A43B 5/12 ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO
(74) Agent and/or Address for Service Murgitroyd & Company 373 Scotland Street, GLASGOW, G5 8QA, United Kingdom	

(54) Abstract Title
Dance shoe

(57) A dance shoe 10 comprises a sole portion 14 and an upper portion 25, said sole portion having an arched portion 26 and said upper portion comprising a toe portion 11 and a side and rear portion 12, wherein the toe portion is formed from a single sheet material. Typically, the toe portion is secured to the side and rear portion by two seams 16 extending diagonally from the top of the shoe to the sole portion. The shoe may also comprise a first eyelet 20 at each side adjacent to the heel of the shoe and a second eyelet 21 at each side above the arched portion of the sole. The toe portion may comprise a toe cap 15 having a projecting portion 19 which can be folded underneath the toe cap and fastened in place preferably, arched shaped stitching 18 is provided on the upper portion, either side of the arched portion of the sole.



GB 2 342 275 A

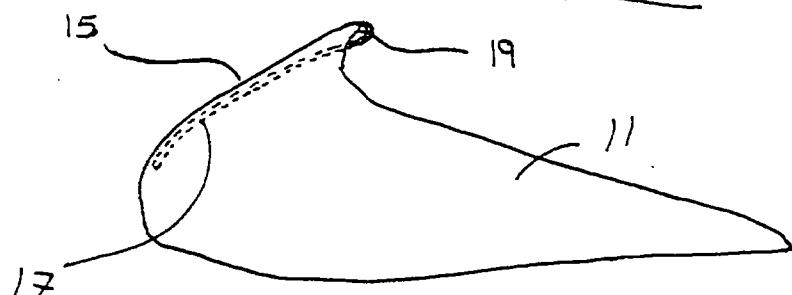
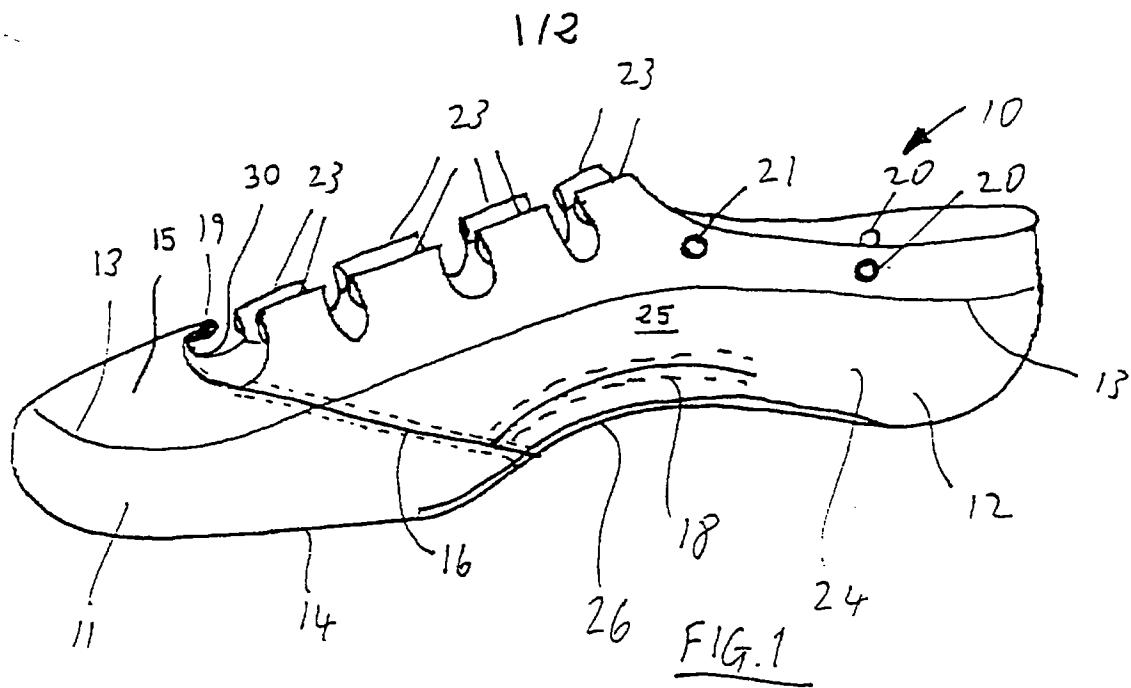


FIG. 2

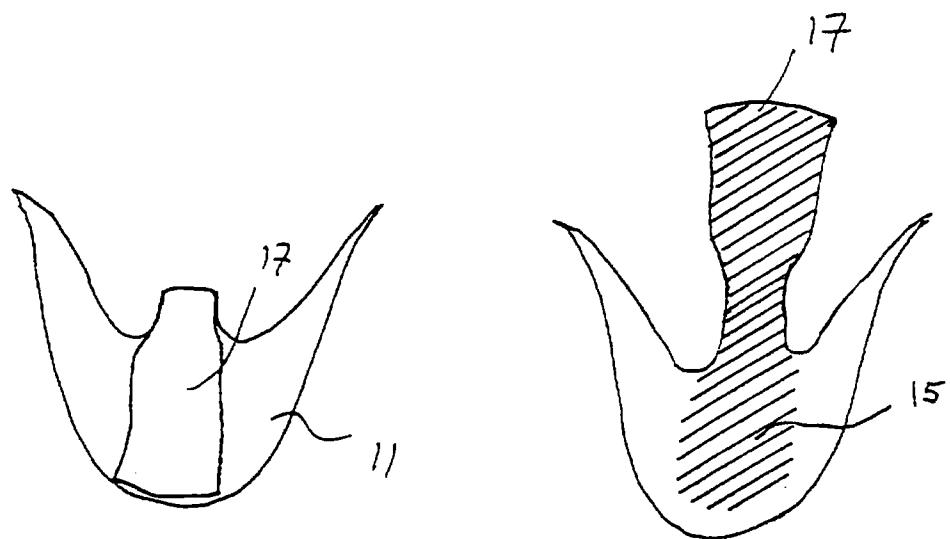
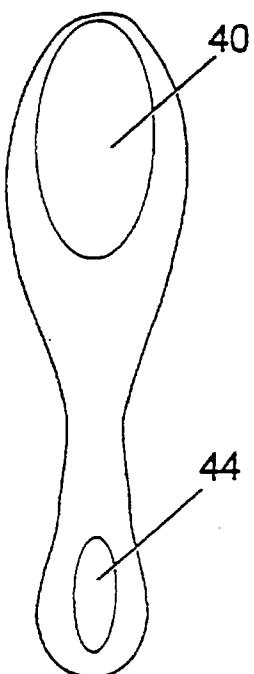
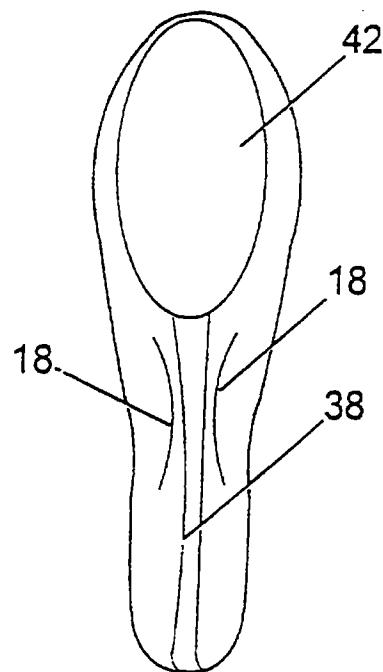
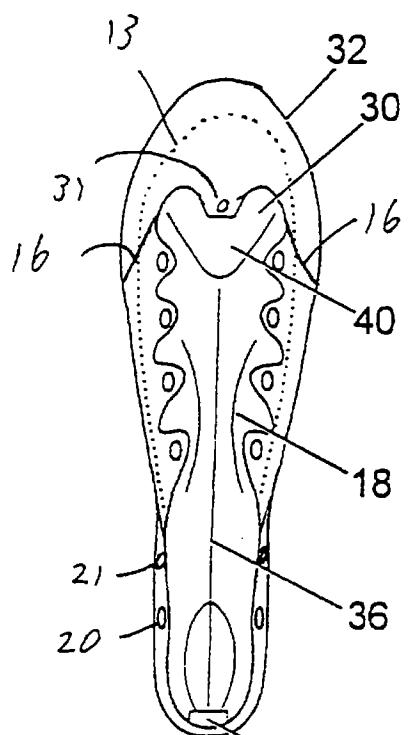
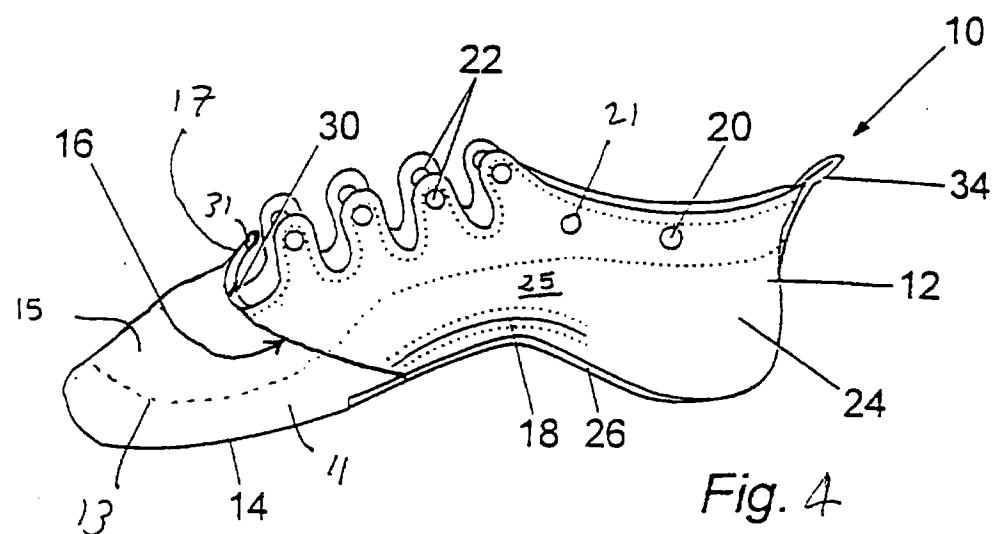


FIG. 3a

FIG. 3b

212



1 **"DANCE SHOE"**

2

3 This invention relates to a dance shoe. Particularly
4 but not exclusively it relates to a dance shoe for
5 country or Irish dancing or similar type of dancing.

6

7 In the field of dance shoes, it is common to have a
8 soft shoe, for example made of leather, which is
9 strapped to a dancer's foot by shoe strings or straps.
10 Commonly known dance shoes are plain in design having a
11 firm sole simply stitched to the leather upper.
12 British Patent Publication No 2,316,598 discloses a
13 dance shoe with arch shaped stitching on either side of
14 the arch portion of the shoe to prevent the shoe from
15 slipping around or becoming misplaced on a dancer's
16 foot while dancing. This shoe has the advantage that
17 the arch shape helps prevent unwanted stretching of the
18 shoe, and helps support the wearer's foot and hold the
19 shoe in position. The upper of the shoe is made from
20 two pieces of leather which are joined by a seam which
21 runs from the front of the shoe to the scooped vamp
22 line of the shoe. If the shoes are used for dances
23 which require a dancer to stand on his/her toes for
24 long periods, this seam can cause discomfort. It is an
25 object of the present invention to provide a dance shoe
26 with improved comfort.

1 According to the present invention there is provided a
2 dance shoe comprising a sole portion and an upper
3 portion, said sole portion having an arched portion and
4 said upper portion comprising a toe portion and a side
5 and rear portion, wherein the toe portion is formed
6 from a single sheet of material.

7

8 The shoe of the invention has the advantage that there
9 is no seam securing together pieces of leather in the
10 middle at the front of the shoe, so that no discomfort
11 to the wearer's toes is caused when the wearer stands
12 on their toes. Friction damage to the wearer's foot is
13 thus reduced.

14

15 Preferably the toe portion comprises a toe cap provided
16 in the central part of the toe portion. Preferably the
17 toe cap is lined to further reduce friction damage,
18 although unlined toe caps are also covered by the
19 present invention. Preferably the toe cap comprises a
20 loop portion for attachment of a lace therethrough.
21 Preferably the loop portion is formed by looping a
22 projecting portion of the toe cap underneath the toe
23 cap and fastening it in place. The projecting portion
24 is preferably sufficiently wide to serve as a lining to
25 the inside of the toe cap and so that there are no
26 seams in the centre of the toe portion.

27

28 Preferably the toe portion is secured to the side and
29 rear portion by securing means comprising one or more
30 seams. Preferably the seams extend in a diagonal
31 direction from the top of the shoe backwards towards
32 the sole.

33

34 In a first embodiment the toe portion may be connected
35 to the side and rear portion by seams at each side of
36 the shoe. The side and rear portion may be formed as a

1 single piece. Alternatively the side and rear portion
2 is formed as two separate pieces which are joined
3 together, for example by a seam, at the heel of the
4 shoe.

5

6 In a second embodiment the toe portion and side and
7 rear portion may be formed as one single sheet of
8 material, with a single seam at the heel.

9

10 Preferably the side and rear portion is provided with a
11 plurality of fastening loops or eyelets along each side
12 at the front end of the shoe, so that a tying means
13 (for example a lace) may be laced through the fastening
14 loops and eyelets to draw the opposing sides together
15 over the front of the foot.

16

17 Preferably the sole has a first substantially flat
18 portion adjacent to the toe portion of the shoe, a
19 second substantially flat portion adjacent to the heel
20 of the shoe, and an arched portion between the first
21 and second portions.

22

23 Preferably the shoe is provided with means for holding
24 the heel of the shoe onto a wearer's foot; the means
25 may be a lace which passes through a plurality of
26 eyelets provided on either side of the heel end of the
27 shoe. Preferably a first eyelet is provided at each
28 side adjacent to the heel end of the shoe and a second
29 eyelet is provided at each side above the arched
30 portion of the sole. The shoe may be held onto the
31 foot by passing a lace through the fastening loops and
32 eyelets, through the first and second eyelets and
33 around the ankle. The provision of the first and
34 second eyelets enables the wearer to lace through these
35 eyelets to stop the lace slipping up the ankle and leg.
36 The shoe is held tightly on the foot and the second

1 eyelet makes it unnecessary to tie the lace around the
2 arch of the sole.

3

4 It is further preferred to provide the shoe with arch
5 shaped stitchings on either side of the arched shaped
6 portion of the sole of the shoe (as described in GB-A-
7 2,316,598) to prevent the shoe from being misplaced on
8 a dancer feet while dancing.

9

10 Preferably at least part of the sole portion is of a
11 material that can absorb high degrees of impact but
12 still allows for flexibility. The material may be
13 CLERON (Trade Mark).

14

15 Specific embodiments of the invention will now be
16 described, by way of example only, with reference to
17 the accompanying drawings in which:

18

19 Fig 1 is a side view of a first shoe in accordance with
20 the present invention;

21

22 Fig 2 is a side view of the toe cap of the shoe of Fig
23 1;

24

25 Figs 3a and 3b are views from below of the toe cap of
26 Fig 2 before and after folding the loop, respectively;

27

28 Fig 4 is a plan view of a second shoe in accordance
29 with the present invention;

30

31 Fig 5 is a plan view on the shoe of Fig 4;

32

33 Fig 6 is a view from below the shoe of Fig 4; and

34

35 Fig 7 is a view from above the inner sole area of the
36 shoe of Fig 4.

1 Referring to the drawings, Fig 1 is a side view of a
2 dance shoe 10 in accordance with the present invention.
3 The shoe 10 has an upper portion 25 and a sole portion
4 14. The upper portion 13 is formed from a toe portion
5 11 and a main portion (side and back portion) 12 of
6 soft leather held together by stitched seams 16. A
7 line of decorative stitching 13 may also be provided,
8 but does not contribute to the physical assembly of the
9 shoe 10.

10

11 The shoe 10 has an arch stitch 18 in the main portion
12 12 which is stitched into either side of the shoe 10
13 (as can be seen in Fig 1). The arch stitching 18 helps
14 to stop the shoe 10 from stretching in this area and in
15 turn supports the arch of a wearer's foot during
16 dancing. Arch stitching 18 also helps to reduce
17 misplacement of the shoe 10 during use.

18

19 The shoe 10 is further provided with two side eyelets
20 20 and 21 on either side of the shoe 10. A shoe lace
21 (not shown) may be threaded through these eyelets and
22 loops 23 and tied to hold the shoe 10 onto the wearer's
23 foot. The arrangement of eyelets 20, 21 helps to avoid
24 incorrect adjustment of the shoe 10 relative to the
25 wearer's foot during dancing. Further, the arrangement
26 supports the foot and alleviates or reduces the
27 incidence of Achilles tendonitis. Further eyelet 21
28 obviates the need for a wearer to tie the lace around
29 the arched sole 26.

30

31 Fig 4 shows a shoe 10 similar to that shown in Fig 1,
32 except that the shoe 10 is fastened by eyelets 22
33 instead of loops 23. An eyelet 31 is also provided in
34 the extending tongue portion 17 of the toe portion 11.

35

36 The shoe may be provided with a back loop 34 (as shown

1 in Fig 4), which extends into a back seam 36 to hold
2 the shoe together. The back seam 36 is covered by a
3 leather strip 38.

4

5 The shape of heel portion 24 is adapted to be pocket-
6 like so as to surround the wearer's foot firmly, in
7 turn supporting the wearer's heel area.

8

9 As can be clearly seen in Fig 1, the shoe 10 is
10 provided with an arch shaped sole 26. This shaped sole
11 26 hugs the arch of the shoe 10 onto the wearer's foot.

12

13 As can be seen in Figs 1, 4 and 5, the shoe 10 is
14 further provided with cut-out lug shaped portions 30
15 having a scooped vamp line at the toe portion 11.
16 These portions 30 allow easier bending of the shoe on
17 the wearer's foot, for example in demi point stance,
18 and helps to stop the shoe 10 pressurising the ball of
19 the wearer's foot in use.

20

21 The toe portion 11 has a toe cap 15 which comprises the
22 middle-upper part of toe portion 11. Toe cap 15 is
23 shown schematically as the shaded portion of the toe
24 portion 11 in Fig 3b. It should be noted that the
25 exact extent of toe cap 15 may vary depending upon the
26 size of the shoes and the wearer's preference. Toe cap
27 15 is provided with an extending tongue portion 17
28 which is folded back underneath the toe portion 11 to
29 form a loop 19 (see Fig 2). Figs 3a and 3b show the
30 tongue portion 17 in the folded and unfolded states
31 respectively.

32

33 The sole portion 14 of the shoe 10 is comprised of
34 various layers. From inside to outside of the shoe,
35 the front sole comprises a pad insert 40 which can be
36 seen separately in Fig 7, and an outer sole unit 42

1 which can be seen clearly in Fig 6.

2

3 As well as the front sole insert 40, there is provided
4 in the sole portion 14 a heel pad 44 (see Fig 7). In
5 this embodiment, both the sole pad 40 and the heel pad
6 44 are made substantially of CLERON^(e.m.) material. This
7 material can absorb large impact forces but still
8 allows lightness and flexibility, and thus comfort, in
9 the shoe.

10

11 Modifications and improvements may be made to the
12 foregoing without departing from the scope of the
13 invention.

1 **CLAIMS**

2

3 1. A dance shoe comprising a sole portion and an
4 upper portion, said sole portion having an arched
5 portion and said upper portion comprising a toe
6 portion and a side and rear portion, wherein the
7 toe portion is formed from a single sheet
8 material.

9

10 2. A dance shoe as claimed in Claim 1, where said toe
11 portion is secured to the side and rear portion by
12 securing means comprising at least one seam.

13

14 3. A dance shoe as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said
15 securing means comprises two seams extending in a
16 diagonal direction from the top of the shoe
17 towards the sole portion.

18

19 4. A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to
20 3, wherein the shoe is provided with means for
21 holding the rear portion of the shoe onto a
22 wearer's foot, said means comprising:

23 - first eyelet means comprising an eyelet
24 provided at each side adjacent to the heel
25 end of the shoe; and
26 - second eyelet means comprising an eyelet
27 provided at each side above the arched
28 position of the sole.

29

30 5. A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to
31 4, wherein the side and rear position is provided
32 with a series of fastening loops or eyelets along
33 each side of the front end of said shoe so that a
34 tying means may be threaded through the fastening
35 loops or eyelets to draw the opposing sides
36 together over the front of the foot.

1 6. A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to
2 5, wherein the toe portion comprises a toe cap
3 which is provided with a loop portion, said loop
4 portion being formed by looping a projecting
5 portion of the toe cap underneath the toe cap and
6 fastening it in place.

7

8 7. A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to
9 6, wherein the side and rear portion is formed as
10 a single piece.

11

12 8. A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to
13 7, wherein the side and rear portion is formed as
14 two separate pieces which are joined together at
15 the heel of the shoe.

16

17 9. A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims
18 1 to 8, wherein arched shaped stitching is
19 provided on said upper portion, said
20 stitching being positioned on either side of
21 the arched portion of the sole portion.

22

23 10. A dance shoe as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to
24 9, wherein at least part of the sole portion is
25 made of CLERON(®).

26

27 11. A dance shoe as substantially herein before
28 described with reference to the accompanying
29 drawings.

30

31



Application No: GB 9923810.7
Claims searched: 1-11

Examiner: Dr Paul R Minton
Date of search: 10 January 2000

Patents Act 1977
Search Report under Section 17

Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.R): A3B.

Int Cl (Ed.7): A43B 5/12.

Other: ONLINE: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage	Relevant to claims
Y	GB 2 316 598 A (COUSSINS). See particularly lines 31-34, page 2 and Figures 1 & 3.	4,9,10
X,Y	GB 2 232 057 A (BURLINGTON). See particularly Figures 1-3.	X:1,5,8 Y:4,9,10
X	GB 0 321 825 A (TILTON). See particularly Figures 1 & 2.	1-3,7
X	GB 0 252 850 A (DI SALVO). See particularly Figures 1 & 2.	1-3,7

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.